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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8439  
INFO RUEAWJA/DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 002704

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DEPT FOR L/LEI-S(TORRES) AND EUR/WE(ALLEGGRONE)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/01/2017

TAGS: PREL FR CJAN

SUBJECT: FRENCH APPROVAL OF MANUEL NORIEGA EXTRADITION  
IMMINENT

REF: STATE 84275

Classified By: PolMC Josiah Rosenblatt for reasons 1.4 (B & D).

¶1. (SBU) Per reftel, POL Deputy discussed June 22 urgency of  
Manuel Noriega extradition proceedings with MFA Americas  
PDAS-equivalent Marc Laforet. Laforet was joined by  
DAS-equivalent for Cuba and Central America Blandine Kreiss  
and desk officers from the U.S. and Central American desks.

¶2. (C) Laforet responded that a June 3 interministerial  
meeting had produced an agreement to recommend to the  
Presidency that the GOF agree to provide the assurances  
sought in the U.S. diplomatic note of February 2007. He  
reiterated that, while France was not in a position to grant  
POW status to Noriega, it would be able to afford him  
treatment at least equal to that he is receiving in the  
United States. Laforet predicted that the Presidency would  
respond favorably within a matter of days -- and possibly as  
early as late that same day -- given the Presidency's likely  
interest in taking a decision in advance of Secretary Rice's  
June 24 arrival in Paris. Laforet promised that a decision  
would be taken by June 26 at the latest. While he could not  
presume to speak for the Presidency, he was confident that  
the decision would be positive.

¶3. (SBU) Laforet confirmed that France would transmit its  
official response by diplomatic note via its Embassy in  
Washington "before Independence day," at the latest, and  
promised to provide us a copy. In presenting the French  
diplomatic note, Laforet said the Embassy would be interested  
in obtaining further details from Washington about specific  
U.S. procedural requirements for effecting the extradition.

Please visit Paris' Classified Website at:  
[http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/paris/index.c fm](http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/paris/index.cfm)

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